

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/FR2003/002201



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0263PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/002201	International filing date (day/month/year) 11 juillet 2003 (11.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 juillet 2002 (12.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B23P 19/00, B65G 51/02, B21J 15/32		
Applicant F2 C2 SYSTEM		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report
II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 06 février 2004 (06.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 22 March 2004 (22.03.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR2003/002201

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 1-7 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1/2-2/2 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/FR 03/02201

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: WO-A-00 07751 A (HENROB LTD) 17 February 2000
 D2: EP-A-0 618 022 (BEARS SRL) 5 October 1994
 D3: EP-A-0 995 537 (NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORP) 26 April 2000
 D4: EP-A-0 511 093 (SAINT CHAMOND GRANAT S A ETS) 28 October 1992

2.1 Document D1, which is considered the closest prior art, describes (cf. figures 1, 9 to 12, 23, 24; page 10, line 20 to page 12, line 3; page 14, line 5 to page 15, line 20; page 21, line 25 to page 22, line 24):

a device for storing and dispensing parts such as rivets, comprising a chassis arranged in areas for receiving storage containers for parts such as rivets, that are moved by means of a carrier fluid. Said device comprises at least one movable dispensing head (carriage) for gripping and discharging individual parts from among the parts stored in the container in front of which said head is moved.

The device according to D1 uses a plurality of different carriages for discharging the different types of parts stored in the containers.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from that described in document D1 in that said movable dispensing head is associated with a plurality of dispensing tubes, the diameter of which matches the type of parts to be dispensed.

The movable head according to claim 1 is capable of dispensing by itself all the different parts, where, in the prior art, a plurality of carriages were required. The kinematics and the movement-imparting means are thus considerably simplified.

Document D2 (see column 3, line 57 to column 4, line 39; column 7, line 54 to column 8, line 19; figures 1-5) describes a movable head for dispensing parts associated with a plurality of dispensing tubes.

Said device is of a different type, comprising storage tubes but not storage cartridges. No mention is made of a chassis provided in areas for receiving the storage cartridges. The individual storage tubes are not interchangeable like the cartridges.

Document D3 (see column 8, line 54 to column 9, line 58) describes a movable dispensing head associated with a plurality of dispensing tubes, the diameter of which matches the type of parts to be dispensed. In said device, the parts are stored in bulk in hoppers. No mention is made of a chassis provided in areas for receiving storage cartridges.

Document D4 (see column 3, lines 32-39; column 8,

lines 3-7; figures 1, 2) describes a riveting machine fed by interchangeable cartridges of the type described in the present application. A plurality of cartridges can be permanently arranged on the machine, thereby enabling the different types of parts to be changed within the automated cycle and without stopping the machine. Only one cartridge can be connected to the machine. Document D4 does not describe a chassis arranged in areas for receiving the storage cartridges or a movable dispensing head.

The features of claim 1 are not contained in the prior art and cannot be derived in an obvious manner therefrom.

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore meets the requirements of novelty and inventive step of the PCT (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

- 2.2 Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore also meet, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.